



Rapid urbanization, high population growth rates and high levels of poverty, unemployment and vested interests in land and housing markets in developing countries pose serious obstacles to efforts by governments to provide adequate housing and improve the living conditions for all urban dwellers.



**UN-HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## FACTS FOR CHANGE

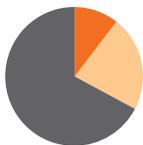
Since 2008 the majority of the world's population has lived in urban areas. Only South Asia and Sub-Sahara Africa remain **more rural than urban**.

Population, by locale, 2014 (%)

● Rural ● Slum ● Other urban



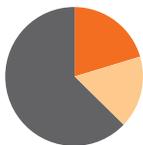
East Asia & Pacific



South Asia



Latin America & Caribbean

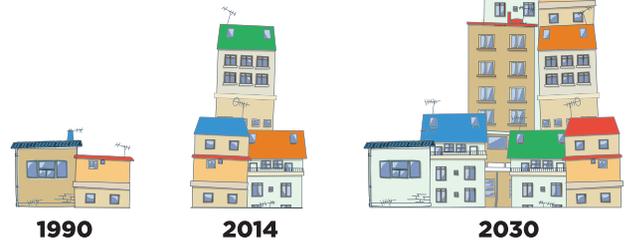


Sub-Saharan Africa

**1 Billion** people live in slums today.  
– one in eight people –



**4,000** homes per hour need to be built worldwide to meet the current housing demand.



1990

2014

2030

Almost **60%** of the Sub-Saharan African urban dwellers live in slums. The biggest growth rate of slum dwellers in numbers is in Asia.

If no action is taken, **3 Billion** people will be forced to live in slums by 2030.

Despite the proportion of urban populations living in slums decreasing from **39% to 30%** between 2000 and 2014, the number of slum dwellers continues to grow in absolute terms, particularly in African countries.

Globally, **6 in 10**

people use sanitation facilities that are not safely managed, and may contribute to the spread of diseases, especially in African Countries.

Almost One third of people worldwide have no access to clean water; in Sub-Saharan Africa almost half of the population has not even the most basic water resources.



Poverty is often gender related. In 89 countries with available data, there are **4.4 million** more women than men living on less than **US\$1.90 a day**.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, women comprise 48.7% of agricultural labour, but only 15% of agricultural land holders; in the Middle East and North Africa, women comprise 40% of agricultural labour and 5% of landowners; in Asia (excluding Japan), women comprise 42% of agricultural labour and 11 per cent of landholders.

Email: [unhabitat-psup@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-psup@un.org) | [www.unhabitat.org/psup](http://www.unhabitat.org/psup) | [www.mypsup.org](http://www.mypsup.org)

**TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. WE HAVE TO ACT NOW!**